

EASTERN INTERIOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING

October 7, 1996  
Stevens Village School  
Stevens Village, Alaska

VOLUME I

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steven E. Ginnis, Chairman  
Philip J. Titus  
Nathaniel Good  
Craig Fleener  
John A. Starr, Jr.  
Timothy Sam  
Randy A. Mayo

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we'll begin our meeting now. Since our chair's not here, I will chair this meeting. I'm the vice chair of this Board. So with that, I'd like to call the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. Vince, I guess you'd take the roll call.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I Mr. Chairman. Lee Titus is absent. Steven Ginnis?

MR. GOOD: Present.

MR. MATHEWS: Chuck Miller called in and is not able to make it, he's absent. Philip Titus?

MR. TITUS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Nathaniel Good?

MR. GOOD: Present.

MR. MATHEWS: Craig Fleener?

MR. FLEENER: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: John Starr, Jr.?

MR. STARR: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Timothy Sam?

MR. SAM: Here, sir.

MR. MATHEWS: Randy Mayo?

MR. MAYO: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Randy's here. We have two members absent and seven members present, so we have a quorum.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So we have a quorum established. I'd like to open the meeting with a prayer, John Starr.

MR. STARR: Father, of heaven and earth, I want to give you thanks for everyone that's here today. Bless everyone here in Stevens Village. Heavenly father, give each of us wisdom, knowledge, be care takers of your resource. I want to bless you for everything you provide for us father. Heavenly father, we want to bless everyone here that came, people that's coming. We want to bless you for the people that's putting us up, this village. Heavenly father, we want to bless you in Jesus' name, amen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, John. With that I'll go on to the introduction of Council members, I'll start to my left with Timothy Sam, go ahead.

MR. SAM: My name is Timothy Sam. I'm from Arctic Village and also have been members of the Yukon Flat Advisory Committee for 20 years. And I have been members of Alaska National Guard for 32 years. And it was my pleasure to be chosen by Bruce Babbitt, who is Secretary of the Interior to be on this Board on behalf of villages that I am serving the goal they need, that I am to fulfill that. I may not be a great speaker but I will do my best. Thank you.

MR. GOOD: I'm Nat Good and I'm a 27 year resident of the State of Alaska. I've lived many places here in the State. Presently I live in Delta Junction. I'm the secretary of the Delta Fish & Game Advisory Committee and I'm looking forward to working with this Board.

MR. FLEENER: My name is Craig Fleener, I'm from Fort Yukon. I'm a new member of this Council as most of you probably can recognize. I'm a college student at present going to the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. I'm a junior, I've been interested in natural resources and what's been happening in the Yukon Flats, especially, for quite a few years. And I haven't been satisfied with the way things have been going, I haven't been satisfied with the direction and the State and the Federal government a lot of advisory committees and councils and things have been going, so I'm here to assist in making a change. I'm not the kind of person that sits at the sideline and just complains and gripes about things going on, but I probably won't have a whole lot to say at the first meeting, just learning the ins and outs of things, but believe me, as soon as I get a little more educated, I'll be a very active member. Thank you.

MR. TITUS: I'm Philip Titus from Minto and I'm a new member. And I'm a subsistence user since I was born and I'm here to make sure that the Native Subsistence rights have priority over every other agenda and the natural renewable resources and that's where I stand. Thank you.

MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo, Stevens Village Board member. Also First Chief of Village Council here and I'm glad you could all make it. Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hello, I'm Steve Ginnis. I'm from Fort Yukon, I'm currently the chief of the Native Village of Fort Yukon. I'm also a Board member on the Council of Athapaskan tribal governments which is a Non profit organization in the Yukon Flats. If I recall correctly I think I've been on this Board for the last two years. And one of the things I find very interesting in serving on this Board is the ability for us to make the necessary changes - regulation changes. And I think we're attempting to meet our responsibilities in that regard.

I look forward to this meeting. I look forward to it mainly because of the fisheries issues that's going to come before this committee. I don't know exactly what's going to happen there, but I have some comments regarding that. And the other discussion that's going to be taking place here has to do with customary traditional use determinations, which is very important to rural people, I think. And I have some feelings about how it's currently being done and that's a discussion item that's going to be discussed later on. With that, I want to thank the people of Stevens Village for their hospitality here and I look forward to a successful meeting. Thank you.

MR. STARR: My name is John Starr. I'm a Board member. I'm also on the Rampart and Manly and Tanana Advisory Board. I think that the first meeting was held in Tok, so, I think this is my third year on here. I know we've made a lot of changes since the first meeting. I'm real grateful for the Board for making those changes. About this customary and traditional use determination, when it first started we had a task force at Tanana Chiefs that was brought up and it seemed like years and years it hasn't been solved. So we hope we have it solved in this meeting. I mean we bring it up and hear more about it. I'm glad to be here and I thank the people of Stevens Village for putting us up here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We'll move on to the agency staff introductions. I guess Vince we'll start with you and kind of work around or however you're going to do it, I don't know how you want to do it, but go ahead.

MR. MATHEWS: I'll just introduce myself, I'm Vince Mathews the Regional Coordinator for Eastern Interior Regional Council presently in Fairbanks. For the Council members they needed to know that because I just relocated the office to Fairbanks. Thank you.

MR. BRELSFORD: Hi, I'm Taylor Brelsford and I work with the Federal Subsistence Program also in Anchorage. I work with the Regional Councils statewide in the Public Involvement and Planning Division. We're going to run into a bit of a glitch here with people not at the microphone, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it's fine.

COURT REPORTER: Try and speak up please.

MR. GUENTHER: I'm Conrad Guenther with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and biologist for the Eastern Interior.

MR. SCHULTZ: I'm Bob Schultz, National Wildlife Refuge, Tok, Alaska.

MR. ULVI: I'm Steve Ulvi, I work with the National Park Service. So I'm here to represent Yukon-Charlie Rivers National Preserve on the Upper Yukon and I work in subsistence management.

MR. HAINES: Terry Haines, Department of Fish & Game, Subsistence Division in Fairbanks. I do a lot of our statewide coordination with the Federal agencies and I'm involved with the State's liaison team to the Federal Subsistence Board.

MS. GRONQUIST: Ruth Gronquist with the Northern District Office of BLM, wildlife biologist.

MS. FOX: Peggy Fox, I'm with the Bureau of Land Management, staff committee member.

MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, I'm staff committee member for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

MR. STEPHENSON: I'm Bob Stephenson. I'm the Fort Yukon area biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

MR. JOSEPH: Robert Joseph, Stevens Village. Welcome to the village.

MR. STEVENS: My name is Ben Stevens. I am from Stevens Village. I work with the Stevens Village Council and the Stevens Village Resource Program and a number of projects. Sitting next to me here is my godfather, Winthrop Silver (ph) just sitting in to make sure I got things right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anybody else, you want to introduce yourself?

MS. STEVENS: Susan Stevens (ph).

MR. JOSEPH: And Perry Mendenhall who is our eighth grade and ninth and tenth grade high school teacher. I work with him and his students.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. With that we'll move on with our agenda, opening comments. We'll have opening comments by two elders. First of all I'd like to have Robert Joseph provide an opening comment.

MR. JOSEPH: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. My name is Robert Joseph from Stevens Village. I work here in this local school here as a teacher's aide along with the high school teacher, Perry Mendenhall. Last week we heard about this here subsistence advisory or Federal advisory, we'd like to welcome each and every one of you here to Stevens Village.

And all of us that are here tonight, all our comments will be welcome and I urge each and every one of you to make some sort of comments, whether you like it or not. Those comments will be beneficial to both the Federal and the State hunting regulations. It always changed from time-to-time, in fact, sometimes it's awful hard to keep up with, but nevertheless our comments will be most beneficial for each and every one of, whoever wishes to comment. And those of you who are here right now are welcome to make any comments, I believe on the agenda at 6:00 o'clock; am I right? Yes. Take notes also and make comments. I urge all of you to make comments of any of the changes here. Once again, welcome to Stevens Village folks. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Robert. Next we'll have John Starr.

MR. STARR: I don't have very much to say because I know there's a lot of issues that have got to be brought up. In the other meetings we had - thought there was a problem because I think it's good for the people that's living in the areas to make comments, I'm really for that because this is their area, this is their hunting area. They grew up here and they're going to live here all the time. So it's very good for you people to make comments about your hunting area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, John. With that, I'll move on with our agenda to any Council member concerns; is there Council member concerns at this time? Go ahead Randy.

MR. MAYO: You agency people know me pretty much and you heard me speak my mind before about some really important issues that don't only effect this community but other - you know, some of our friends and relatives sitting on this Board here from different villages, we all have the same issues and concerns and the same battles, you know, over our resources that we're still living off of out here.

You know, I feel pretty good sitting on this Board. My term is up and I don't know if I'll go again or not, but like John said, you know, things happen, not right now, but a lot of my concerns and stuff will come up in the specific agenda time for customary and traditional use. And then in the discussion on traditional knowledge and wisdom and co management. I'll bring a lot of my concerns out there. Once again, I want to welcome all the visitors to the village here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there any other Council member concerns? Go ahead, Timothy.

MR. SAM: I believe that this is a very important meeting, we're representing villages, people's concerns, people's hope, that's what we're here for. To my knowledge this is the second time I have been to Board meeting, the Chairman of the Board, in these two meetings that I have attended is not present. To my knowledge, I think he should be terminated or be stepped down from Chair person. His concern is not there for the people for his country as well as people he's representing and that's my request. And this meeting, the next few days, if that does not change, I will speak up for it and I will see to it that what I have said is accomplished. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Timothy. Is there any other Council member comments?

I'd just like to kind of echo what John had to say earlier, is that, you know, we try to have these meetings in rural areas within the eastern regional interior. And the idea here is to try to get comments from the local people regarding the issues and the things that we deal with. And so far I think we've done pretty well, we've held a meeting in Tok, we've had one in Ft. Yukon, we've held one meeting in Fairbanks, in Northway. So we're trying to have our meetings in the areas that we represent. And it is really important that we receive comments back from the people that rely on these resources. It's through your participation, that I think we can get a lot of things done.

The other thing that I said earlier was that I have very serious concerns regarding the customary and traditional use determinations, how they're being done. It's an item that's going to be on the agenda. The other thing that I think that comes up at this Board here, like I said earlier, has to do with fisheries, I have some concerns regarding that also. But we'll get to those as we move along here. If there's no other Council member concerns, we'll move on with the agenda.

MR. STARR: I see this subsistence management regulations, they got it out and there's something I'd like to bring up to, I've got a proposal, I think it's written from the tribal council in Tanana. This wolf issue that's coming up, there's something that's got to be done about it. We can't just let the State and Federal is going to manage fish and wildlife, they got to do something about the wolves, too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, if there's no other comments, we'll move on with our agenda. The next item is the approval of the agenda; is there any other additional items? Go ahead, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, sometime during the meeting the Council needs to look at appointing a member to the annual report subcommittee because Jeff Roache served that capacity and he's no longer on the Council. The other thing is the Council needs to appoint a representative, I may not get the right title for this, the 40 Mile Caribou Planning Team or Group. So someone from this Council needs to be a representative to that planning group.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: Those are the only two items that have come to me since publishing the agenda that's in your book.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Where would you suggest that we put this on our agenda, under (A) (2), New Business?

MR. MATHEWS: Sure, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this old business or - it must be new business, right?

MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's kind of routine business. So it could either go under additions to old business or put under new business. It will only take a minute.

MR. FLEENER: It needs to be - it's a part of old business, after the elections.

MR. MATHEWS: That is a good suggestion, would be to put it under - after we do the election of officers, just do the appointments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. If there's no objection, we'll have the appointment of the member to the annual report committee and the appointment of the 40-mile Caribou Planning Team member from this Board after the elections. Is there any objection to that? Okay, if not, then that's where we'll insert those. Is there any other additions? Members? Staff?

There is one other thing, Vince, that I would like to bring up as an issue. It has to do with the moose management of the south side of the Yukon River, which would include Birch Creek, Beaver, Stevens Village area. I'm not exactly sure where we can put that issue on the agenda, you know, I think most of us know that there is a real low moose population in that particular area. And I think there needs to be some discussion here about what is the plan to address that issue. So I don't know if it's a topic by itself or it could fit in some other place in here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, staff from the refuge will be here tomorrow morning. I'd probably be wise - we also have the area biologist here with Fish & Game, so it might be wise to put it under a presentation either under the refuge presentation or the Department of Fish & Game or joint one, somewhere during that time, I think.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I think it probably would fit in under the Fish & Wildlife Services Yukon Flats report. Maybe that would be the time to bring the issue up.

MR. MATHEWS: Sure. Since they're not here, we'll volunteer them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pardon me?

MR. MATHEWS: Since they're not here, we'll volunteer them. No, I think they're prepared for that and it'd be a good time to have a round table discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So if there's no objection from the members, we'll insert the moose decline on the south side of the Yukon under the Fish & Wildlife Service report. Is there any other additions? If not, then I guess I would entertain a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes.

MR. FLEENER: I move to adopt the agenda.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, it's been moved, is there a second?

MR. STARR: I'll second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second by John. Is there any further discussion on the motion. If not, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those opposed? Okay, the motion carries. The next is the reading and approval of our March 5th and 6th minutes 1996, would you read that, Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: I can, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you trying to volunteer me?

MR. MATHEWS: I could volunteer you, too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's fine. You can go ahead.

MR. MATHEWS: Before I think we get into the minutes, if I could take a just a minute to explain all the paperwork in front of you because at 5:20 we have to kind of clean out the room here, there will be a taco fund raiser here, so we need to move our stuff. In front of you have - if it's okay with the chair, because you'll be putting all your papers in a group. You have the purple book which is the Federal regulations book, you also have a small green book, Alaska Department of Fish & Game logo on the front of it, that's subsistence fishing regs. Below that or with that you have a thing called Wild things in Wild places, it's a new brochure on refuges. You may want to keep it because of the map in there, it shows you where the refuges are and you have quite a few of the large ones in your region. You also have a copy of the State hunting and fishing regulations. And what else did we put in front of them - we put a lot of things in front of you there. I also inserted into your book a new calendar for the meeting and some other phone numbers and addresses of importance in case they slip out. So that is what is in front of you. The copies over on the table are there for the public and other staff to take. If we do run out of some, we can get your name and address and provide you copies.

Okay, for the new members and others your book is setup by tabs. Minutes are under Tab 2, they were sent out to everybody August 13th for the May 5th and 6th meeting. If you want I can either summarize it or you can take a look at it and give me any corrections that you might have or additions. So I'll leave that up to the Chair and to the Council as to how you'd like me to do the minutes. The minutes are about 10 pages long, so it would be a bit of reading.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Vince, you know, Randy and I were just discussing this. They are rather long minutes, it's going to take a lot of time to read these, are these minutes available out there?

MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman, they're not to my knowledge. But there is two public copies of the brown book that you have, so others could look at them if they need to be, but there are not individual copies available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, I guess I would suggest in the future that these be made available. Because we have an opportunity to read these because they come out early. But for the benefit of the audience, you know, they wouldn't know what are in the minutes and the kinds of actions that we took at our last meeting.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So if you would make these available at our next meeting.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And they are sent to all the tribal councils, but we'll duly note that we need to have copies at the next meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then with that, I guess, I would entertain a motion to adopt the March 5th through the 6th '96 minutes.

MR. FLEENER: I make a motion to adopt the March 5th and 6th minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, it's been moved, is there a second?

MR. SAM: I second it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's been seconded. Is there any discussion? Any questions? If not, then all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those opposed. Okay, the motion carries. The next item is the election of officers. Vince, is this an annual thing?

MR. MATHEWS: There needs to be.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I mean I just recall we just had an election not long ago it seems like to me, I mean so far as officers are concerned.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. What happened is the cycle for officer election is usually the fall meeting. A year ago at the fall meeting it was decided by this Council to defer to the spring meeting. And at the spring meeting - well, late winter meeting, the three officers were elected in, Lee Titus as Chair, Steven Ginnis as vice chair and Chuck Miller as secretary. So to get us back into cycle we put it on the agenda to either reaffirm or go through the whole election process.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I guess I'd like to suggest that maybe from today on that we have staggering terms of officers. It doesn't make any sense to me to come here on an annual basis and go through this process. Most of us are what three or two year terms, so if there's a way we could do that I think that would be best for us.



MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that is a suggestion. It would have to be taken up when the charter is back before the Council. And when the charter was before the Council, it had in there that the officers serve a one year term. So I'm kind of scrambling here to know when the charters will be back before you. I would say it will probably be a year before they're back before you, the charters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I guess I should have known better to even suggest it. Anyways, I don't know exactly how you want to proceed with this, just open the floor for nominations for chair and just move on down the - and do it on secret ballot or how do you want to handle this?

MR. MATHEWS: That's up to you. In the past you've taken nominations from the floor and then we passed out sheets of paper and people voted. You can do a full slate if you wanted to do that also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean go through the nomination process and then just put it all on one?

MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With that, I will open the floor for nominations for chair.

MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. SAM: I've been on this Board for less than a year. I know that this is important issue and we have people we're presenting as well as local. I supposed to be in Saudi Arabia now with Guard training but I declined that on account of this meeting. I would refuse or decline on election on the Board as a chairperson or what have you on behalf of my time with Guard. I don't want to be selected as a chairperson and then be gone away. I believe if a person is being accepted in a position he or she should fulfill the welfare of people and I'd like to say that I will decline on an office, but I like to - I've been very happy to be a member of the Council. So Chairman I'd like for you to accept that from me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I'm asking for nominations for the Chair. Is there any nominations?

MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. GOOD: I nominate yourself as chair.

MR. STARR: Second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I appreciate your offer. But I'm kind of reluctant actually. You know, I'm involved up to my ears right now and I know that being the chair of this Board here is just not running the meeting every time you get together. It involves testifying before the Federal Subsistence Board, and you know, it requires some travel and it requires some work to be done. I'm not sure if I can actually devote my time to that just now. I prefer to just be a member of the Board. I'd rather be over here as a member speaking on issues and

it's kind of difficult to do that when you're chairing a meeting. So I respectfully thank you for your nomination but I'd have to decline, thank you.

So we're back to the nomination of chair, any further nominations or any nominations?

MR. SAM: I'd like to nominate Craig Fleener.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Craig Fleener's been nominated. He didn't say anything, so I guess he's going to accept. I guess he's been nominated and he don't have no objection. Is there any further nominations?

MR. STARR: Close nominations.

MR. MAYO: Second.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's a motion to close nominations, well, it's been seconded to close. I guess I would request a unanimous consent since you're the only name; is there any objection to that from the Board?

MR. FLEENER: Well, Mr. Chair, I'd like to say something first. I'm kind of like in the same boat that you are with a lot of things that I'm doing and my lack of experience.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, well, we live in the same neighborhood and I can help you out. Don't try to cop out on this one, okay. No, I'm not trying to put you in a position, but I can definitely help you out, we live in the same communities. Anyway, I'm asking for a unanimous consent, is there any objection? Okay, if not, you are the new chair and I will turn it over to you Craig.

MR. FLEENER: Well, I'd like to make a suggestion that Steve, at least, finish this meeting out so that I can learn how to run a meeting first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I was just going to sit over here and enjoy myself, Craig. But anyway, yeah, I will run the meeting for you this time around and if you would sit right next to me here, you know, I might be able to teach you something - just kidding.

Okay, with that we'll move on then. The next nomination is for vice chair. Any nominations?

MR. STARR: I nominate Randy Mayo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Randy Mayo has been nominated. Any further nominations? Go ahead, Randy.

MR. MAYO: Yeah, I'm kind of in the same situation here. I've got a lot of things going and so thank you for the nomination, but I'll have to decline.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, it's still open.

MR. MAYO: But, Mr. Chair, I'd like to nominate Philip Titus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Philip Titus has been nominated as vice chair.

MR. STARR: Second it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seconded. Any further nominations? The new members are getting right up there right away. Okay, no further nominations then I ask for unanimous consent, is there any objection? No objection, so you are our vice chair. Okay, the next nomination open on the floor is the secretary, nominations?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe I should explain the duties of the secretary so it would entice people to nominate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I know it isn't much, it's just a title, right?

MR. MATHEWS: In general that's the way it is, correct. It's up to the Council if they want to make it more powerful. Presently, it's basically the third person in line in case the other two are unavailable.

MR. STARR: I nominate Nathaniel Good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Nathaniel has been nominated. Is there any further nominations?

MR. GOOD: Yes, I'd like to nominate Steve Ginnis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I respectfully decline.

MR. GOOD: You have time for this, don't you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we're trying to get you guys involved here. Okay, is there any further nominations? Was there a second to that nomination?

MR. FLEENER: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, he's been nominated, is there a second to it? Can I second the motion even though I'm chairing this meeting?

MR. MATHEWS: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pardon?

MR. MATHEWS: If you give your chairmanship away, I assume you could, yeah you could second it. You can second it if you want to. I have counsel next to me, you can second the motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. In that case, I second the motion. Is there any further nominations? If not, I'll request unanimous consent, any objection? If not, then you are our secretary. Keep good notes.

Okay, we'll move on then. We're on old business, discussion of customary and traditional use determinations. Go ahead, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is a topic you've brought up several times and this is one you requested to be added to the agenda. I'm not sure how to handle this at this moment. We have the staff - well, let me explain to the new members that may not realize this, each of the Regional Councils has a team that's assigned to them that's composed of a coordinator, like myself, a biologist, which is Conrad Guenther and a social scientists or anthropologist which is George Sherritt. George is unable to be here due to family illness, so we do have other staff here that are trained anthropologists who are now in

other positions that may be able to assist and obviously we have a State representative from the Division of Subsistence.

So I think what we need to do is to lay out - well, let me make some suggestions and see if you feel that's the way we should go. We should probably lay out the way the system is being done now, so it's clear to the public and to all the Council members how we're dealing with customary and traditional use determinations. Exactly what a customary and traditional use determination is. And then explore other alternate ways of addressing that. So it's up to the acting Chair here to decide how we want to proceed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Actually it's not up to me, I think it's up to the Board here. But, yeah, I think your suggestion is good. I think maybe we ought to have a little discussion about how it's currently being determined and then take it from there. At least as a member of this Board I really have some strong feelings about how it's currently being done.

So is there someone here that can give us a brief summary of how these determinations are currently being done?

MR. MATHEWS: I think Taylor will explain how we do it and then from there we'll go into it. And the reason we weren't paying as close attention, we were trying to look at details for the region, and basically what you're talking about now is the overall, how we do it, not specifics, correct, to an area?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. I'll turn it over to Taylor.

MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, Taylor Brelsford with the Federal Board program. Perhaps it's best to start with a concrete example, so if people could pullout the purple booklets, the Federal regs and turn to unit - let's pick Unit 25, the Fort Yukon area, so that would be on Page 138 and 139.

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman, my concern is who's word are we going to have to live by after the determination is done? Because there ain't no other determination that - we can't compromise our livelihood and whoever's determination we're going to live by, I want my input and that's my concern.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Philip, I think what we're trying to get at here is - my understanding of how these determinations are done, these customary and traditional findings are done is through species. You know, I guess that's where I really have a disagreement. I would rather determine traditional and customary use areas by areas mapped out on a map. My rationale for that is simply that species, you know, they don't just stay in one area they move around. And it doesn't make any sense to me that we would determine customary and traditional use areas by species. I know that years ago the State did these customary and traditional use areas and actually mapped them out. You know, that's where I'm trying to get at, is I don't care for the way it's currently being done and I guess maybe we ought to start there and talk about how do we make the changes. You know, somebody was telling me this is part of Title VIII of ANILCA that requires this type of approach to this issue of customary and traditional use. In the area I come from, you know, our villages are very close to each other and as a result our hunting - our traditional and customary use areas are basically adjacent to each other. So you could say that the people up in the Yukon Flats area, upper part of the Yukon Flats is utilized by everybody

there, the whole area. So I guess that's where I'm trying to get at is I'd like to try to look at ways to change this from the current approach.

MR. BRELSFORD: Let me respond to two points, first of all on the point raised by Mr. Titus. I think the Federal Subsistence Board looks to the advice and counsel of the Regional Councils; these are not decisions made in a vacuum. The whole purpose of having the Regional Councils is precisely that your knowledge and understanding of where people hunt from each community would come to the Board. What we start with is a baseline and incomplete baseline of C&T determinations and the Federal program has been trying to fill gaps. We've been asking the Councils to come forward with proposals for the last two years to try and fill up the holes, so your suggestion that local people are going to know the most about where they hunt and fish, of course, that's correct and that's really the purpose of having proposals from the Councils.

On the point that you raised, Mr. Ginnis, regarding mapped use areas. I think when the Board takes under advisement the staff reports, the technical information that's drawn together, certainly the single most compelling kind of information are those mapped use areas that were drawn up with the village households usually by ADF&G when they did the community studies. So I think we share the same interests in that kind of information, the mapped use areas. I think maybe the way to look at it is that the Board has maybe worked on it in a little more piecemeal fashion than you're suggesting. Trying to prioritize the species where there were conservation issues or resource allocation issues. And so focusing on large mammals first, for example. But the Council is certainly free to make the suggestions that you're proposing and I think the Board would be ready to entertain a package of decisions identifying a whole series of species that are used by individual communities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, let me just respond to you there. First of all, I see a real difference between species and customary and traditional use areas, you know, as a person that lives out here. When I'm talking about customary/traditional use areas that's exactly what that means, where we hunt, fish trap, you know, the whole nine yards versus determining these by species. Now, those species, they're managed by regulation. You know, they're already managed through regulation and we shouldn't be utilizing them as a way to determine customary and traditional use areas, so that's now. I want to try to get back to this idea of saying, okay, like around Stevens Village here for instance, what area do they use for their traditional and customary use, which is quite different through determining it through this process. You see these things come in units.

MR. TITUS: Units.

MR. BRELSFORD: I'm agreeing with you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. BRELSFORD: I think the fabric of the subsistence lifestyle is one whole cloth, not individual threads. I think people have offered that lesson to us many, many times and it's certainly a compelling lesson. I think the end result should be the same. If we've listened carefully when people talk about moose hunting and about fishing, at the end of the day we should have regulations that respond to real traditional use areas, real traditional ranges. I think maybe the pathway out of this would be for the Council to make proposals along the lines that you think best.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Let me just give you an example of what makes it difficult for me to base information on species, okay. Like this right here, one of the things we're going to be doing here, is we defer Proposal #56 and #57 regarding the Unit 12 caribou customary and traditional use determinations. Now, I don't know where these - in fact, I don't even know where Unit 12 is, okay. I don't know where - what communities are around that. I have no idea of what areas they use, yet I'm being asked as a member of this Board to deal with this issue here on Unit 12, do you see what I'm saying?

Now, if I had a map that would be laid out here in front of me and say, okay, this is Unit 12, this is the customary use areas we're talking about would make more sense to me. It would make my job a lot easier. But the process, that's what I'm talking about, this process we're using here, there must be a different way, easier way to try to address this. Because it's really, from my point of view, customary and traditional use are very important to the rural users. And so I guess that's where I'm coming from. I think I'm just repeating myself here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I won't put words in Taylor's mouth, but we're hearing you. I think what you're saying is that you would be more comfortable as a Council member either to have a specific area in the region say what they really want as their customary and traditional use area or that you would be provided that information that they have that they've also agreed to. That is somewhat happening.

I know you're going to quickly come up with an example where it hasn't, but this is a public process and the only thing we can lean back on is the fact that these proposals, if you put one together as a Council or as an individual or as an organization goes to all these different groups to talk about and to review, you could look at this as a process of - you know, through meeting locations, through other means of soliciting that - what am I looking for, that knowledge that that represents the customary and traditional area for X communities somewhere in the region. We can do that. I hear also with you that you feel that maybe the Council should not be in that middle role; is that correct to say?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Middle role of?

MR. MATHEWS: That the areas within the region should speak for themselves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Absolutely. I mean I have no idea, like I just said, about Stevens Village traditional use areas. I have no idea where their use area is around here, nor the rest of these people, I don't think. That's what I'm trying to get at. I think it's a better way of identifying traditional and customary use areas, that's all I'm saying. It ought to be done by village. And, like for instance, Yukon Flats Refuge, the villages that are within the Yukon Flats Refuge, there ought to be a way to do that. I mean there ain't no reason why they couldn't come out here and meet with us, the Council of the Stevens Village - the tribal council, then the people in the community can ask for their assistance to map out the use area that they have. I'm sure they've already done that, but that's what I'm trying to say. And I think it's a lot better way to manage the resource than under this process we're using now. And I guess I'm just asking how do we get to that point. Does it require some kind of regulation change or does it require some sort of a motion here? Does it require us to advocate this to the Federal Management Board?

MR. BRELSFORD: I guess to follow this a little bit further, in my opinion, it would not require a regulation change for the Council to bring a proposal that says, for this community, the unified use area for all of the species runs like this. That would be a specific proposal unifying the subsistence harvest practices in the way that you're describing. As near as I can tell, that's fair game within the existing regulations. The decisions, when the Board finally gets wrapped up on it, in the regulations book, would still be listed by game units - by Game Management Units and by species. But I think what you're pushing forward is the idea that it's a natural category, people reason, they understand the use areas, village by village, not by Game Management Unit 12 or Game Management Unit 25(D). There's no obstacle to the Council coming forward with a proposal that expresses things the way that you guys see it.

So I think really all we need to do is either in the general session or with a small group working together, mark down proposals that would correspond to the approach that you're suggesting. Maybe you want to do it for the Unit 25, the areas inside the refuge, the Yukon Flats Refuge. There may be some priority setting that you'd like to offer, but I don't think there's any obstacle to moving ahead in the way that you suggest and I think we ought to try and do that before we wrap up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think we're caught up under the system right now. You know, I'm talking about down the road, at the next round of proposals, whenever those things come up that they be done - the traditional findings be done in the way that I'm suggesting. I don't know if we can change them now, but I'm suggesting a change in how the approach of the whole issue of customary and traditional use determination.

I'm not going to take up this whole meeting here, I'm going to turn it over to John.

MR. STARR: That was brought up when we first started with the meetings, I was with the Tanana Chief's Task Force and we had meetings. And they started on this customary and traditional use and that's what we're trying to tell them, a specific area. Because I know my area down there, I was born and raised down there and I know what's in that area. And you don't just go out there and kill just for the trophies, you go out there and try to preserve. And I think every village does that. And I think a specific area, like he's - that's what we brought up, we can go by every village and say what area they hunt in, that's their C&T, customary and traditional use area.

MR. JOSEPH: Yeah, this customary tradition here has been with us for a long time. And it has been brought up numerous time and any advisory committee as far as Fish & Wildlife is concerned and other agencies, well that never been recognized. It has never been recognized. The point is what they're trying to say here is that our customs is with us today and will always be with us. And we do not hunt for the benefit of sports or any other activity. Our only activity here on the subsistence is the way our life has been always. It certainly has always been that way. And that's what we are trying to bring across, is try to identify the customary use, sadly to say it has been brought up but it has never been recognized and I would urge the Board here to work toward that to have it recognized. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the record, that was Robert Joseph. Anybody want to make comments, please state your name so the lady here that's doing the recording - she doesn't know everybody here, you know, so if you would, please state your name. Go ahead, Craig.

MR. FLEENER: I was just going to make a request that we get a brief overview of the current C&T determination, how it's made, how you can submit changes to it. Maybe if Taylor could go over that for the benefit of the audience and the new Council members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the example - you guys are obviously quite familiar with this process, there's maybe little served by going to look at an example page, but let me summarize how you can change proposals at this point. As of about two years ago the Federal Board began to invite proposals from the Councils to change the old C&T determinations, the ones brought in at the beginning of the Federal program and the idea here is that it would be a bottom up approach. That the Councils would identify what they believed to be the traditional uses, the traditional use areas, the Councils would initiate by their proposals these changes in the regulation. It would not start with the Board. It would not start with the Board staff. It would start with the Councils. So a key change in the last two years was this idea of initiation coming originally, right from the beginning, from the Councils. So the Council is free to offer the proposals, to organize them in the way that Steven has suggested to identify hot buttons, key issues that have to go to the head of the line this year, before anything else, all of those are options that the Council could exercise.

Another part of this picture is the backlog. There were some proposals from Tanana Chiefs, from some of the villages that were received between 1990 and 1995, '94 perhaps. And under the old regulations, the Board was not moving ahead on those. They were going to certain priority areas in the State in sequence. So there was this backlog. And for the Eastern Interior Region, the backlog, it currently stands at 13 proposals you have previously submitted have never been cleared. You could prioritize among those proposals. I think we owe people an answer.

MR. FLEENER: Are those species?

MR. BRELSFORD: They are.

MR. FLEENER: Proposals for species, not for area.

MR. BRELSFORD: They are by species and by unit. So there's a series of species in Unit 12, for example, caribou, sheep, moose, black bear, grouse and ptarmigan. In effect, you've got kind of a whole circle of species in one unit, in one circle of villages. And then there's another series from Unit 20 and Unit 25, different subunits within Units 20 and 25.

MR. FLEENER: So can a proposal be submitted that would be inclusive of more than one species?

MR. BRELSFORD: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah.

MR. FLEENER: And are you saying that the lowest level that a proposal can be submitted is from the Council, an individual cannot submit a proposal?



MR. BRELSFORD: No. Individuals can submit proposals. Some of these backlog proposals came from individuals and I'm saying that at some point we owe people an answer. We can't just, you know, fail to answer our mail. They've submitted a proposal in good faith and as we can prioritize and make progress, we ultimately have to answer those proposals. But I guess the thought that's coming to my mind is, if we maybe work at a map for a few minutes at a break at some point today or tomorrow, we might find a way where several of these proposals actually cluster together around a village use area and we could reorganize proposals in the fashion that Steven and others have suggested.

So just to follow the process, proposals are initiated either through the backlog or through individual submissions or through Council proposals in the fall meeting of the year. Between the fall and the winter meeting, we would try and compile existing data, and that would typically come from the community studies that ADF&G has done - ADF&G Subsistence Division and it would include those mapped use areas by village. I think you guys have seen those many times. For the community of Fort Yukon, there would be an outside range, a map, that kind of information would be brought back to you, to the Council, in the winter meeting, and we would get your formal recommendation to take to the Board in April. So that's now the sequence and the type of proposals that could be offered. I think you probably already know this, but let me just mention one more time, there are, in the Federal regulations, eight factors that the Board looks at in trying to understand customary and traditional uses. These are similar to the eight criteria that were used in the State system over the years and include things like long term consistent use of resources, a reasonable sound, sharing of resources, passing on of knowledge between generations. They're fairly common sense factors, none of them would surprise you. Those are the kind of information that we would try to pull together from the public testimony, from existing literature and from the Council's recommendation to offer the board as background information. So the eight factors remain a backbone to the Board's decisions.

But I think the main thing to take from this is that the initiative, it's a bottom up process in the Board's mind. They want recommendations, they want proposals to arise from the Councils based on what on what you guys know about uses in your regions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, you know, that whole concept works if you're from that particular area. Like I'm familiar with our area up there, 25(D). Now, I'm not familiar with Unit 12, for example, yet I'm being asked to either accept these proposals as they're written or make some changes to them or whatever. And without public testimony from the people that come from area, it's very difficult for me to sit here and make a judgment on it, that's what I'm trying to say. Now, on the other hand, if we did it through the process that I'm trying to initiate, we would have that information before us here. You know, we'd say, well, Unit 12 is this area right here, the customary and traditional use in that area is here and we can base it that way. But you know, like I say, it's difficult for me to sit here and deal with issues that are just totally out of my area and yet I'm also a member on this Board that's supposed to make those decisions. So either we're going to have to improve on this current system or we need to go back to mapping out these areas. That's the way I look at it.

MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, go ahead Randy.

MR. MAYO: In looking at this agenda here, what I know about this process of determining C&T, you know, there's a lot of - this whole thing is wrong, you know, even sitting on this board is - you know, if you looked in the minutes of the Fort Yukon meeting, some of my feelings and stuff, it's - you know, it goes way beyond this, there's a lot of history here. And, you know, some of this stuff could be in this co management and traditional knowledge and wisdom discussion, you know, because it's a big issue. I have the same concerns as the Board members, we're being asked to make decisions on areas that we don't live in. We have a lot of historical records going back, even before this so-called State of Alaska, this entity was created. You know, our definition of our customary and traditional use area, you know, is not a State or Federal definition, it goes back before these two entities were even thought about or created. So it's really an in-depth discussion and you agency people - you know, I shouldn't be talking to you people about this because you guys are way down here in the system, I should be up there talking with the real decision makers in my position, you know, government to government. This is some of my frustration.

You know, like I said before, some of you agency people know - I've talked to you guys before and you know what my position is on these things. We have a lot of records, historical records, we have a land use plan, you know, where are these things in the process we're talking about here? You know, they're not recognized. You look at this color-coded map, all of this legislation, all of these things we weren't a part of to begin with, ANCSA, ANILCA, that's how that map got that way because we weren't involved. And now the very communities that you're asking us to make decisions on aren't here to have their elders point out their traditional use areas and this is what you relative newcomers have to learn.

You know, here in the village, we're basing our traditional land use plan, and when we talk about our traditional lands, this isn't no State or Federal definition, this was drawn out on a map 60 some years ago by the elders. One of them is seated here in the audience and this is where we stand. A lot of these are tribal jurisdiction and authority is usurped and negated by State and Federal government. You know, a lot of this - if things were done right the first time around, me and Steve and some other tribal government people wouldn't be sitting on an advisory board, you know, it's an insult. We've been stripped of our tribal authority and jurisdiction over our territories. You know back in the 1930s, the BIA had field agents out here in the communities taking testimony and traveling and documenting the different villages traditional use areas and we have that documentation. But you know how that move was blocked, you know, from Rampart all the way up to Arctic Village to the Canadian border, all those communities, those lands, would have been in Federal trust, you know. Our traditional lands here stretch from Grey River all the way up to Purgatory and to the hills south of here and to these mountains north of us. So you know, a lot of this, it has to start somewhere, you know, it has to be a lot of this detrimental legislation has to be changed, you know, and it's not going to happen here on this level, but on a statewide political front.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Randy. I don't know where to take this from here. But I think you're getting the understanding of what we're trying to say here. That, you know, we're looking at ways to do these determinations differently than the way it's being done now. And I think in the long run, I think it will be more beneficial to the rural communities if it's done the way we're trying to lay it out here. So I don't know where to take this from here, other than maybe making a motion that you managers or whomever take a look at determining these things in a different way, or at least, in the way that we're suggesting it.

Because this could be an all day debate. And I don't think it's necessary to debate it, you know, I think it's something that needs to be taken to heart and something that needs to be followed up to the extent that it can. How this committee here or Board here can help through that process is what we're trying to find out here. It seems to me that sometimes we do a lot of discussion and that's about the extent of it. I'm beginning to think that maybe it's time to put some of these things into a motion so that at least there's a record and the direction in which we want this thing to go.

So, I don't know, go ahead, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: I don't know where to start from here but I have it all written down on a little piece of paper. What I hear is that you need more confidence to know of the area before you make a decision or that the decision of what is customary and traditional in an area should be by that area. The way the structure is now that if that area, whatever it happens to be, Yukon Flats area, puts a proposal up, it would be before you, whoever is on this Council. Each of the members here represent the whole region, but they're also selected with a geographic base. So what we could do to assist if we took Unit 12 as an example, would be to deal with teleconferencing with the people in that area, dialogue some way, there could be subcommittees. I don't know, we would talk dollars later on that, but there could be subcommittees. We have one individual from near Unit 12, we have Lee Titus who is close to Unit 12, et cetera. So those are options there.

I think what Taylor has brought up, would be one, it might be good when we could do this with the mikes off and explore this during a break, would be to take and try an example. Just go through one example and see if we could do this - not backlog consolidating, but look at what you want and see what we could do with words and then come back on session and see. I think that might be a better way to go. We hear what you're saying. We understand what you're saying. I think the Council has to come forward and bring and form an example and run it through the system. I personally don't see any other way of doing it to be honest with you, would be to come up with a proposal, test the waters and I think you'll be successful like you said, but I think we have to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know, we just said just a few minutes ago, that these determinations would be best done by the local community.

MR. MATHEWS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's where it needs to go, these determinations got to be done by the local users. I certainly ain't going to sit here and look at a map and map out an area for Fort Yukon, for example, because I might not be covering all the areas that are traditionally used or customarily used. So we're looking at a change in the process. We're looking at a way to have more input from the people that use the resource. And not necessarily putting that burden on us through these - doing these findings through species. You know, we're being asked to do this and I'm simply saying that I think the local people, the local users are better prepared to do that. And at least in this part of the country here, I know that the people here have been working on the resource management type of a thing here, I mean they have that information. And I know back in early '80s, I think it was, when the State came out with this idea and it worked pretty well, I thought, State Subsistence Division. And I'm sure you can talk a little bit about how that was done. That's similar to what I'm trying to initiate here.

Go ahead, Randy.

MR. MAYO: You know, being forced to work in these bounds and limits here on this Board that I'm sitting on - I know what Vince is talking about in getting that - there are a number of avenues we can take to alleviate this messed up situation that's being presented to us, you know, making decisions on areas that we don't even live in. You know what Steve mentioned here on some of the things we've been working on, you know, I don't know how many - I mentioned this before at another meeting, you know, for a long time the government and its different agencies and everybody else, you know, has been making money off us doing their data collection and whatnot, information gathering, you mentioned anthropologists. Down there at that Tok meeting, how many thousands of dollars was spent on a stack of papers that this little anthropologist lady did for their C&T study? You know, for example, right now we're trying to develop our natural resource office here in the village. You know there are non-BIA programs that are contractible by tribes and I've asked for those numbers from the Fish & Wildlife Service and the different programs. You know, those things can be contracted out by the different villages. The people that live here year-round can go around and gather that information. You know, we don't need somebody not familiar with the area to come in here and do that for us. You know, that's one way. You know, there are a lot of ways that it can be done with our historical records. Like I said, this is what we're basing our limits and boundaries on.

So, you know, when this Yukon Flats C&T study was going to come up, the tribal governments in this area, we have to get those numbers and start looking at contracting some of those services. I have Ben here and one young guy here, a resource information gatherer, you know, it can't be done from the outside, it has to be done from within by the local people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any more discussion?

MR. SAM: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

MR. SAM: You know on this Unit 25 under black bear rural resident, July 1 to June 30th (sic), if you ask that old guy sitting right there to take a black bear at that time, he'd laugh at you, that's not the time, I tell you that. Where I'm from we don't have black bear we only have grizzly and brown bear, but I know for a fact that when to take either all animals at certain times of year, I think this is wrong time. And I think that regulations should be dated to the old people way of taking animals, it's not, no, it's not looking at the map and say Unit 25 or 15, when to take animal, but I think that date should be according to local elderly, to my knowledge. I'm an old guy myself. I got good reason to have grey hair, I'm not ashamed of it. I'm proud to be an elder, I tell you that. I know when to take animal in Arctic Village, Unit 25, I know when to take animals. And this is - I teach that to young people. I think this is the open season should be based on elderly, like that old guy there. I shouldn't be under what all you set a date, I don't have discrimination, I'm a christian person. And most of you are white and most of you are Native, if I take a knife and you take a knife and you cut yourself, the blood will be red, same color. We have to stand together. We have to look at our elderly. It's not from what we earn every year, it's not what should be taken, he know, that old guy there, he know. He know what's out there. Nature take care of himself. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion?

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Philip.

MR. TITUS: The area used by different people don't include just the local area because the animals migrate through the country. And these geese I shot at last spring, they migrated north and somebody else shot at them, too. So I could make regulations for my area and these guys up here, up the river, he got to make a different regulation to have his share. And this customary use is not only just a local area, it's the whole habitat that resources live on, like the water, the lakes and the streams. Like a big mining company found gold up the river where there's a lot of fish, what they going to do with the fish, they kill them off and get the gold. That's the historic use since the miners come to Alaska and I don't like that - I don't like that definition. That's it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Philip. Is there any further discussion on this issue? I'd like to turn the Chair over to Philip so I can move a motion. Okay, I'd like to move that C&T determinations for this year fall with the current process and that for next year C&T determinations be done by area and that villages be consulted to help determine these areas. That's a motion.

MR. TITUS: Is there a second?

MR. FLEENER: I second the motion.

MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded that - what was the motion, Mr. Secretary?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want me to repeat the motion?

MR. TITUS: Would you read the motion for the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. I move that C&T determinations for this year follow the current process and that for next year C&T determinations be done by area and that villages be consulted to help determine these areas.

MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded.

MR. FLEENER: I'd like to ask a question. Is there a way that underneath that somehow we can make it mandatory that the village councils be consulted and lay some sort of guidelines. Because if you just say that they be consulted, all they have to do is mail them a mail out and that's consulting. Maybe we can make it a little more strict or something where there is some guidelines that they have to go by. That's just a suggestion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, actually my intent of my motion, when I say consult with village, I mean to meet with them and to discuss the use areas and to determine them. So if there's a different word I can use other than consult, you know, I'd be more than happy to amend the motion or somebody else can amend the motion. I don't know what to put in there other than word, but the intent is to meet with them.

MR. MATHEWS: What word, consult, is fine. Plus as you know, the minutes get kind of long as you mentioned earlier, we'll put in there, discussion of your concerns what consultation means.

MR. TITUS: Okay, is that it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hang on a minute, there's someone over here.

MR. JOSEPH: Just for the record my name is Robert Joseph from Stevens Village. On this proposal here or the idea here, I am in much favor of that, some sort of advisory capacity as far as the locals are concerned. It could be village by village or three or four villages together that would be consulted on any changes. Because I have no idea right now, even though I have some information here, I have no idea what the Fish & Game are doing or what their proposals are. Nobody really knows this and from time-to-time there's a change that comes along and we have no idea what happened and it's already been enacted and we're not very - the locals are not satisfied with the enactment until it's too late. So I'm in much favor of a local advisory committee or some sort of committee to look at these changes. And I would call it co-management, really that's what you would call it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There's still a motion on the floor.

MR. TITUS: The motion and a second, any questions? Any more discussion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did we get a second to the motion?

MR. FLEENER: I seconded it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. TITUS: Any more discussion on the motion?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I'm just simply trying to move this issue along, I think, is what I'm trying to do here. You know, three years ago I think it was when we met in Tok, this whole issue came up. And since then it seems to be a topic that keeps popping up and it seems like there's no response to it. So my purpose of this motion is simply to try to get something moving on this thing and try to look at different ways to do this, that's all the motion is intended to do. Thank you.

MR. TITUS: Any other discussions? All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. TITUS: All opposed same sign. Motion carries. Do you want the chair back?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. You know, there's several items that I overlooked here before we got into C&T findings, I'm sorry about that. We'll go back for a minute if it's all right with the Board. One thing that we need to consider is appointing a member from this group here to serve on the annual report committee. And as Vince was saying, Jeff Roache, who is no longer on this Board served in that capacity. So I guess I'd entertain a motion to appoint a member. I don't know exactly how the process is done, do we do this through nominations or you just appoint?

MR. MATHEWS: You would just appoint someone. The way you had it in the past was that the chair and one member, I would draft up with input from you and others what would be in the annual report or how the annual report would be designed. They would be the ones that would review it to see if it met those

criteria and then kind of made it a final draft and then it was presented to the Council. So it's kind of just a review board, it would be just basically getting copies of this in the mail or by fax to see if it matches what the intent of the Council in the annual report. In the past it was Lee Titus and Jeff Roache, now it will be Craig Fleener and whoever else would like to. It's mainly a review for tone and accuracy and make sure that I didn't forget a topic that should be in the annual report. It's a few phone calls.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As acting chair here, if there's no objection from the Council, I'll go ahead and make the appointment. I think, at least, in my opinion, I think the chair and the vice chair should serve in that capacity. And if there's no objection - go ahead.

MR. STARR: I second that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I'm not making a motion, I'm just.....

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: .....I'm making an appointment.

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman, I think the secretary ought to review some of this since it's a secretary's job.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, well, Philip is kind of backing off. What's your.....

MR. TITUS: The secretary ought to know this stuff anyway.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're talking about appointing a member on our annual report. You know, each year we do an annual report for the Federal Subsistence Board. Basically like he said, all they do is, two members of this Board review it for accuracy and that type of thing, that's all that's involved in this as far as I know.

MR. MATHEWS: Right. And if there's any - it's just that and then that draft is brought back before the Council unless there's some other reason, so it's just a review board. It's just someone to help so that when we get to that meeting when you decide if that's the annual report you want to give, that it's basically done, so we don't have to wordsmith again and go through it. It doesn't mean we don't, it just means that it tries to prevent that. It's just another envelope in the mail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So if there's no objection from the Board, then I'll appoint the Chairman of the Board and the Secretary of the Board. Any objection to that.

MR. TITUS: Fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, so ordered. The next appointment from this.....

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have to decide on the 40-mile caribou plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm getting there.

MR. FLEENER: He's getting the agenda.

MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next item is the - we need a representative from this Board to serve on the 40-mile caribou planning team. Yes, go ahead.

MR. GOOD: Mr. Chairman, I don't know if anybody else is interested in it or not, but if there's no interest in it, I would be.

MR. FLEENER: You got it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to that?

MR. TITUS: No.

MR. STARR: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, so Nathaniel, we will appoint you as the member on the 40-mile caribou planning team representing this Board.

All right, we're done with the discussion of the customary and traditional use areas. We've got about 10 minutes, I think we've got to get out of here by 5:00 because they're having a spaghetti dinner or taco dinner or something here. I guess I need to ask the Board, you know, we have a lot of things to do here in a day and a half or so. My suggestion would be to come back here about 7:00 and at least go for another couple of hours. I don't know how the Board feels about that. But there's much to be done here. I guess I don't know what time this dinner's going to be done, anybody know?

MR. BRELSFORD: It starts at 6:00.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It starts at 6:00, somebody said 5:30.

MR. MATHEWS: The taco feed starts at 5:30. I don't know when it will end, but it will probably be at least an hour or an hour and a half.

MR. SAM: Mr. Chairman, I think that what the students are putting on tonight, it's going to take a longer time than two hours, I think the meeting should start in the morning. Because if we come back here at 7:00 o'clock and this place is full of kids, there's no way that we can continue this meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vince, is the meeting going to continue here tomorrow?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The meeting will be here tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, at least there's one objection to the idea of meeting tonight, how does the rest of the Board feel?

MR. TITUS: Let's go up to the last minute and then decide.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Randy.

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chair, let's go to the last minute and then decide.

MR. MAYO: Well, I don't have no objections to continuing tonight and do some work tonight. This feed is open to everybody and it's supposed to start by 5:30 and I think it will be cleared out by 7:00, you know. So my suggestion is make it tentative at 7:00 but no later than 7:30 to continue.



MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. The suggestion is that we schedule the evening meeting for 7:00 and no later than 7:30. Okay. I don't know, should we move on with the report from the Subsistence Board or is that a little time consuming there? You know, we should get out of here by 5:00 so they can it up.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, we can cover that one pretty quickly. Basically you will have when I cover correspondence, what the Board did with proposals besides the ones listed there, you also received that in the mail. I apologize for that, I just noticed that I have two A's down here, I don't know what happened there, but anyways, the second A, which is report of the Federal Subsistence Board, it says, deferral of Proposals #56 and #57 and then deferral of Proposal #59, which dealt with Healy Lake. At this time there's nothing to present. We're going to ask that those proposals be deferred for another year to allow further work to be done on those.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would entertain a motion to defer Proposal #56, #57 and #59 until next year?

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman, is that to go along with the local input action for the - like your new motion you put in?

MR. FLEENER: That doesn't come until next year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

MR. TITUS: Well, since we're tabling it, wouldn't that fall under that definition right?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think he's got some reason for asking that these proposals be deferred for another year is the way that I understood him.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there is a reason for doing that. The work that was associated with that was not able to be accomplished due to family illness with staff. And it is a very, very complex issue in Unit 12 to figure out that whole system and to come up with draft language or proposal that would reflect the interests of the area is going to take some great amount of skill and technique. It's a very complex issue in Unit 12, caribou. And that's it. There is some more that maybe Taylor can share on that.

MR. BRELSFORD: I think the point raised by Mr. Titus is precisely the reason for the deferral. There's an intention to meet and to consult more closely with the Ahtna villages. So I think the purpose of this deferral is consistent with the spirit of consultation and laying the ground work with the individual villages.

MR. TITUS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I make a motion to table these proposals?

MR. GOOD: I'll second that motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear your motion?

MR. TITUS: To do what they want.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Philip is making a motion that we defer Proposals #56, #57, #59 until next year. Is there a second to that motion?

MR. GOOD: I'll second it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's been seconded by Nathaniel. Is there any discussion on the motion? Any questions? If not, then all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those opposed. Okay, the motion carries. The next item is the response to Council correspondence of March '96 Fort Yukon meeting.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if you want we can wait on that or you can look at it at your leisure. All the correspondence sent and received is under Tab 4. In the past I've summarized that, I don't know if you want me to do that or wait until we come back?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, let's see it's five minutes to, maybe we'll go ahead and recess until 7:00 this evening, if there's no objection.

(Off record)

(On record)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call the meeting back to order. Let's see where are we at here. Okay, the next item on our agenda is a response to Council correspondence from the March '96 Fort Yukon meeting.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, what I've done is as I've done in the past is under Tab Number 4 is the correspondence that the Council received in followed by correspondence that was utilizing the letterhead of the Council. So if you want to turn to Tab 4. At your last Council meeting you requested or when I say, you, I mean the Regional Council, requested a special session to review the State's possible solution to the subsistence dilemma, that was denied, based on the fact that they realize that it's an important topic, but that it was a State topic and funding could not be justified for having a special meeting. So that's the letter that responds to your request on that.

The next one is my summary of what I will call the 805(C) letters. I use these numbers not to take anybody off, but in case, various people slip and say that's your 805(C) response. The Board needs to respond, in writing, to Regional Council recommendations that the Board did not utilize in a positive fashion, did not adopt them. The 805 letters, in general, go over all the proposals and this is a cover letter explaining what happened with your proposals.

The next one is from using your letterhead to Mr. Demientieff who is the chair of the Federal Subsistence Board asking to amend the charter for alternate members for each of its seats. That basically you wanted an alternate member for each standing seat that you had. And this is your letter to the Federal Subsistence Board asking for that and we'll be talking about the outcome of the alternate discussion later on in the agenda.

Again, it's just different letters that were utilized - your letterhead utilized for that, so you'll see that now we're up to the March 18th letter to Tom Boyd asking for that special meeting. The March 21st letter is giving your response - or your request, excuse me, to the National Park Service to keep your Council in the loop on this draft review of subsistence law and National Park Service regulations. Tomorrow, if the planes allow it, Clarence Summers with the regional office of National Park Service will be here to discuss the, I

believe it's the next draft of that, but he'll cover that subject. So that's the letter that you drafted on that.

And I can go through each one or you can take a look on your own. A letter to John Vale, the chair of the Wrangell-St. Elias to revise - supports the request for - your Council supports the request to revise their charter. I think it might just be easier for you guys to go through and look at them. We decided at an earlier meetings that this is how you wanted the correspondence provided to you instead of mailing each time one is done at that time. The Chair is usually given a copy of it because they have to sign-off on it. So I think I'll just leave that for you to look through, if you have questions, if that's all right, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vince, I do have one question regarding your letter of July the 11th regarding the Unit 12, caribou issue. I was just wondering if because of the action we took just prior to this, deferring those proposals on the caribou, if we're doing a disservice to the Ahtna Villages, who wanted to be included in this determination?

MR. MATHEWS: My understanding on that and I hope others in the room that have other knowledge will share it, my understanding is that there will be no - no one will be harmed by a deferring action on that. And I see heads shaking on that. Yes, there's still issues there, I'm not avoiding that. But by deferring Proposal #56 and #57, that an Ahtna village will not be harmed by that action. The Southcentral Regional Council is meeting as we speak and they're taking the same action, the assumption that they take the same action, to defer. So they are your sister Council that is addressing these same proposals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just wanted to make sure that by the action that we took we're not doing a disservice to those villages that rely on this resource.

MR. MATHEWS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because if that's what we're doing then I think we need to backtrack and take some sort of action other than defer.

MR. MATHEWS: No. And plus there is no work to be presented so the process cannot go forward anyways. But I will try to share that with the Southcentral Regional Council at some means.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The other thing I wanted to comment on was that letter that came - the letter where we requested a meeting to review the State summary of possible solution to the subsistence impasse.

MR. MATHEWS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In his letter it says, it'd be difficult to justify a Federal expenditure to hold a Regional Council meeting for sole purpose of discussing this State initiative. I guess I have a different point of view from the individual that wrote this letter. I personally feel that anything that has to do with subsistence in this State has to have an impact. And because of that, I think we should have been able to have some sort of a meeting to review this because if you recall, this thing was brought before us in a meeting without prior, you know, review or anything like that regarding it. So I guess I kind of disagree with it that this is a State initiative and we should stay out of that.

Is there any questions on this correspondence from our Council as a result of the Fort Yukon meeting? Is there any action?

MR. MATHEWS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. MATHEWS: No, Mr. Chairman. It's just basically informative to know what is transpired using the Regional Council letterhead and to get all Council members to know what has transpired since the last meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I guess I have one more other question and that has to do with this letter of March 15th of '96. Where we were trying to address the Bering Sea trawlers.

MR. MATHEWS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that was an issue that was brought up by a former member from Tanana. In fact, I think we passed a resolution. And can you just kind of review this particular letter, because I think it has an impact on the fisheries, the Yukon River Fisheries.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The history of the resolution, you are correct, and I have a faint feeling and I apologize for that that the machine apparently didn't cover the back side of the letter, so I apologize at least from my copy it does not. But anyways, the resolution was passed at the Tok meeting. It was a resolution by a former member with support of the Council dealing with the Bering Sea fisheries and the factory trawlers asking for immediate action on that fisheries. At that time it was addressed to the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. We did receive a reply from the Secretary of Interior. We still have not one from Commerce. In the movement of that resolution, it was brought up at subsequent meetings and subsequent Councils said that this should be provided to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and that's why it is here. I don't know if that's the summary you're looking at, but basically it was saying that fisheries, one, are very important to the subsistence users of Eastern Interior Alaska and that the Bering Sea Fisheries factory trawlers were impacting that and wanted the different entities involved with the management of that fishery to know the concerns of this Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So you're saying that it went to the Alaska Board of Fisheries?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it did. There's no reply from the Board of Fisheries that I am aware of. They have not replied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So does that mean that that particular resolution needs further follow up?

MR. STARR: It should be followed up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it should be followed up to the extent possible. I mean just a letter being addressed to the chair of the Alaska Board of Fisheries doesn't address the issue.

MR. MATHEWS: I would need some guidance as to what you mean by that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think the resolution was very specific about stopping this fishery out in the Bering Sea. You know it's one thing to write a letter

to the chair of the Alaska Board of Fisheries and presenting them with a resolution and there's another thing about whether they acted on it or not.

MR. MATHEWS: The options that I know of would be to write again another letter saying we submitted on such and such date and asking what the status is of that letter and what the Board of Fisheries response is. And I can't speak for the Board of Fisheries, that would be one option there. If you have other suggestions, go ahead. It's a jurisdictional question is what I'm hesitating about, so maybe the State would like to comment.

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes, Department of Fish & Game. If I can get a copy of that letter from Vince, I could follow-up after the meeting to see if the Board of Fisheries intends to provide you with a written response. I'd be happy to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate that. Like I said, it's an issue that's been raised by this Council and it needs to be followed up to the extent we can. I'm not satisfied with just a letter going off to the Board of Fisheries and leaving it at that.

So, anyway, is there any other questions on these letters? If not, I guess, it's just basically information, so we'll move on. Annual reports to the Federal Subsistence Board, the status of replies to the '94/95 reports.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if you turn to Tab 5 and this is the section that deals with annual reports. I will explain how this is laid out and then ask for your direction of how you would like to proceed with this.

Basically it's designed to show you the official response to your annual report of '94/95, you already had a response in '93 for your '93 report. And also I included examples of two other regions of how they do their annual reports. So that's how this is organized. Why is it organized that one way, well, you need to know what the Board's response was to your annual reports. The examples were put in there to solicit guidance from the Council as to how - if the Council desires to format or design its annual report in a different way. That's how I put it together, we can proceed under that mode if you'd like.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't know I think we've discussed this a couple of times already about the format. The way I understand these annual reports, I guess it's a report to the Subsistence Board of our activities over the years. That's what it amounts to, type of actions and directions that we've given over the years. Is that the purpose of the annual report?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. But we've now gone over the hurdle of the annual reports that were not responded to. And you've had some staff changes in your support staff.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Excuse me, what do you mean by not responded to?

MR. MATHEWS: What now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What did you mean by the annual reports weren't responded, I didn't understand?

MR. MATHEWS: You had reports in '93, '94 and '95. The '93 report you received an answer in '95, I'm going to by pilot mode here and there was a delay in doing that. And then '94 and '95 were not responded to that rapidly. So now we are

over these backlog ones and now we're going to be in a process where it will be more automatic, the response, there won't be this delay. We had the agreement from the Board that the Board will be involved in the review of these annual reports and involved with that action along with the interagency staff committee. So now we are beyond the question of how these annual reports will be viewed by different segments of the process. So I kind of took the liberty to look at other Regional Council reports to see how they put theirs together and thought maybe that this Regional Council may want to do that or may not want to do that. Essentially what you've done in the past is brought up issues of importance that either could be addressed by seasons and harvest limits or even by now C&T determinations. You could bring them up again in there or bring up issues that could not be resolved in that matter. Other Regional Councils have done that, they've also done a baseline report. Kodiak Aleutians is based on kind of a baseline report and also Yukon Kuskokwim, which I put in here.

So I think the wiser move would be to look at the response to your annual report here and then go on from there and see if you want to make any type of.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that the response from Mitch Demientieff?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. That's the one that's dated 9/26, it's handwritten in the upper right-hand corner there. The date stamp didn't come through in the copy, so I had to hand write it in. And it addresses the issue that you had already asked about, your resolution was in the annual report since '93 - since '94 it was in there. And this is a response to that issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know what kind of reaction you're looking for in regards to his response. I mean there's.....

MR. MATHEWS: It's mainly informative to let you know that they're there. I believe you should have gotten copies earlier, except for the new members, they were mailed out to individual members. That's pretty much it, I would say. And then a copy of your 1995 annual report follows the letter that was sent to the - a draft letter to the chairman of the Yukon Kuskokwim because they also took actions on the Yukon River chum salmon issue. And that's pretty much it. I mean I can summarize the response.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, that's fine. I guess the only thing I can say about this response is that it seems to only address the issue of the trawler issue that was raised in our annual report. You know, there's other - if you look at our annual report that was provided, there's other issues other than the trawler issue that we discussed over the year. And I guess I'm just kind of curious why some of these things that we have done isn't covered in his letter. I guess that's the only thing that I would have.

MR. MATHEWS: In the annual report for 1995 is basically just that issue. And a summary of the actions that the Council did at various meetings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

MR. MATHEWS: I suppose what my response is really saying to you is that the other issues that may have been noted in there were responded to through other means. Through the letters explaining what the Board did or not do with the recommendation of this Council. That's pretty much it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So what do you need here, a motion of some sort or just information?

MR. MATHEWS: I think I got what I need. I was hoping, myself, personally, for a little bit more direction on how to write these annual reports and I think you've given me that direction that the existing format is fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's my point of view. I'm not speaking on behalf of all these people here. I guess the question is for Board members is, if this format is satisfactory as it's laid out as part of our annual report. If there's any other additional things, you have the floor.

MR. STARR: There's some that I'm really concerned about. Like opening the commercial season that late in the fall, like this last fall. And I can see that the people already got their fish, but most of that opening that season that late in the fall, the people were just selling eggs. I seen a lot of waste on there. And they were people that's got commercial licenses. I've seen them down the river there. That they were catching fish - I could see they were catching fish just for the eggs and they had enough fish put up already. I don't see why they opened it that late in the fall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vince, there's just one other thing here, too, I'd like to just express my opinion on, is that, we're being required to provide an annual report.

MR. MATHEWS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: And, you know, I think we're doing our responsibility of trying to get that in. Whoever responds to these annual reports, we're talking about some report that was done two years ago. I mean if you're talking about a report that was done in '93 and we finally got our answer in '95, I think that's what you said, that just doesn't seem, you know, there's some follow-up problem there somewhere.

MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's what I may have stumbled around and we're over that now. We're beyond that. That's clear, we now have a schedule that is setup and it's now part of the whole process that what annual reports you generate, issues that you generate at this meeting and are approved, you know, gone through your subcommittee and you approve at the next meeting in winter will go forward - I'm losing the date, in February?

MR. BRELSFORD: July.

MR. MATHEWS: July.

MR. BRELSFORD: At the winter meeting.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. The Board would review them after the April Board meeting sometime in summer and then you would have a response back to you by a year from this meeting. So we now actually have a schedule. We have the process in line to handle this, we're over that. And what's in here under Tab 5 is an example that we're beyond that.

MR. FLEENER: So does that mean we're going to receive a response to our '94/95 in July 1997?

MR. MATHEWS: That's what's in here right now.

MR. BRELSFORD: I think Vince may have gotten the dates a little out of synch and if we look together at the page, it's dated May 21st, 1996. The bold type says annual report for 1995. In that first paragraph it says that the Council received a letter February 27, 1995 responding to the 1993 and '94 annual reports, that's where there was a bad delay. So the '95 report, this year's report is dated May 21st, 1996 and then the reply letter, the first item before you was dated September of '96. So this time, for this region, we've actually met our responsibilities a little bit better. But what Vince is saying is that collectively, for all 10 regions, we've fallen down, pretty badly, there were quite serious delays in responding to annual reports. We've redesigned some staff positions this year and received a lot more attention from the Federal Board itself. I think in April at the Board meeting there was kind of frank exchange between the Council chairs and the Chairman, Mitch Demientieff and he assured the Council chairs at that time that by fall all of the annual reports would be caught up. That the Board would sit down and go through the annual reports and provide replies. So what it looks like to us, is that the Chairs have succeeded in getting the Board's attention that if they put the effort into writing these reports, you guys have a reasonable expectation for the Board to sit down and read them and offer some policy replies. They're now committed to doing that.

I think basically we will have a responsive cycle each year. You guys can draft a report in the fall at this time of year, finalize it in your winter meeting so that all of the members see what goes out. The Board will develop a reply shortly after the April regulatory meeting and you'll have an answer in early summer. So I think the delays and doubts and skepticism that came from that are behind us. That's what we're hoping here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I guess going back to the Chair's response to our annual report. Like I just mentioned, it seemed like out of all the things we've done over the year, this trawler issue is one thing that he took out of the report. But, you know, March 1st through the 3rd of '95 when we had a meeting in Northway, this whole issue of this traditional - customary and traditional use issue came up at that meeting. Now, the Board supported a broad alternative for customary traditional use determinations for the Upper Tanana area with a higher level of review and involvement of local tribes/village councils. Yet, that's an important issue to us and we've consistently brought this to the Board here, yet it's not even reflected in the report. Now, to me, that seems to me that the Regional Subsistence Board won't view that as an issue. It's not even reflected in his response.

MR. BRELSFORD: I think that's fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And let me just add that it seems to me that they're the appropriate Board to address an issue like that. I mean they can have a lot of influence on how those determinations are done.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. On that one you're correct. But at the time that action was taken that was under the - again, we're back into the C&T issue. That was back where we were dealing with this prioritized areas of the State of marching out, it was not going anywhere and you, yourself and others had pointed out clearly that there needed to be more local input. Subsequent to that we went to an annual C&T process. So that's kind of why the Board didn't respond to it because we have now gone into a whole different way of dealing with C&T determinations from marching around to every so many years, hitting an area to an annual process statewide.



So what I would recommend is make that an issue for your '96 annual report.

MR. BRELSFORD: At the risk, Mr. Chairman, of making this sound like stereo, I think we owe you an apology on that. I think it is potentially a policy and an action item that, from the organization of the report, didn't like a policy action item. The first one, the front leading issue on trawlers in the way that you organized the report was clearly one on which the Board was asked to operate at the policy level. I think we maybe missed something, missed the significance of what the Council was putting forward. As I read it now it looks obvious to me. When we were developing the Board materials in June and July, I'm one of the guilty parties, I didn't pick that up as an action item to be forthright about it. And based on what you guys have said today I think that was an oversight. The course of action that you've proposed earlier through your motion, I think, moves us forward. But I think for the response bringing items to the Board's attention, I think that one slipped by and it should not have.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm Ida Hildebrand with the BIA. I might suggest that if it's going to be considered in your 1996 annual report that you word it in a manner that states that you have consistently raised this issue every year since 1993 or whenever you began to raise that issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. Well, I don't know, the motion that I made earlier hopefully is going to address it. You know, I mean that was the intent of my motion is to move this thing forward. To come here next meeting again and have to go through this discussion again, I certainly hope we don't have to do that. Somebody needs to get a message to them though, that this is an ongoing concern. And certainly we can include it in our next annual report, whenever that's due. Is that due at this meeting?

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we're developing the '96 report at this meeting. It doesn't mean we have to get all the issues at this time, but we should get a majority of them and others could surface and Council members or public could contact their local Council member and get it through that way. But it would be best to get most of the issues that should be in the annual report in some kind of listing now so we could develop that, so we can have it reviewed by your subcommittee and then back before you at your late winter meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let me ask just ask if there's any other discussion on the replies to the '94/95 reports? That's another issue, that's the next thing on the agenda, right, is the development?

MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any other discussion, questions on the reports? If not, then we'll go on to the development of the '96 report and the report distribution.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, this is at a time when people can bring up different issues that they feel should be in the annual report. As you see in the '95 report, as listed there, basically you brought up issues and then summarized actions, not in great detail.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where are you at on this? What are you looking at?

MR. MATHEWS: I'm just laying out the way it's laid out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The '95 report?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the '95 report, yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I didn't hear any objection to the format of it.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There is no objection. I just thought you were looking at a '96 report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, right.

MR. MATHEWS: So if there's any issues, people need to voice them now and then get the Council to agree to being part of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, one is the customary/traditional use determinations related to that motion of doing it by area. I don't know, this is kind of premature to get into this because one of the things that I understand we're going to discussing here is proposed fishery regulations; is that correct?

MR. BRELSFORD: We'll have an extended presentation on Federal subsistence fisheries management. It will include the visuals up there and we'll talk about the components of it, the environmental review process and then the regulation development process. So it's not quite that we're going to sit down and work out specific regulations, but we'll talk about how the Federal subsistence fisheries development will occur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So, I guess I'll ask the Board then what other things would we like to have included in our annual? Can you kind of go over the trawler's issue again. I mean what became of our resolution. It just went as far as the Board and they responded to it and that was it? Oh, it went to the Board of Fisheries?

MR. MATHEWS: The resolution went to the Secretary of Interior, went to the Secretary of Commerce, went to the Board of Fisheries. We have received response from the Secretary of the Interior, we have not from the Secretary of Commerce, nor from the Board of Fisheries. But copies will be provided to the State representative here, Terry, and he will see what the status is of that letter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, that's another thing, I guess that would need further follow up, that should be reflected in the '96 report.

MR. MATHEWS: Sure. We get into a jurisdiction question on this one. And who else we should involve in informing of this resolution. We can put it in there, the Board has looked at this when we brought up this issue and has responded. So the Board has responded, the Federal Subsistence Board. I suppose I'm at a loss at what direction you're wanting on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're asking me?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I think the direction in which you'll want this thing to go is we want to stop the activity. I think that was the intent of the resolution to begin with. Now, if it's not being followed up to that point then I think it

needs to be addressed somewhere along the line. I mean, this Board supported it, I'm sure the fishermen along the Yukon River would support this effort. I mean if it's having an effect on the Yukon River fishery, then it's definitely an issue that needs to be dealt with. Go ahead, Craig.

MR. FLEENER: I think that an important thing that Steve's trying to let you know is that we just want to reaffirm what our opinion is on this issue and how importance that it holds, basically.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I understand what you mean by this jurisdictional problem or whatever you refer to it as. I think I know what you mean, but can you explain it?

MR. MATHEWS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The way I understand things is that sooner or later the Federal government is supposedly going to take over the fishery. In fact, that's part of what this thing is, ain't it, I mean to move us to that point?

MR. MATHEWS: I'll defer that.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: So I guess from my perspective, this is not a juris - the issue - that big word.

MR. MATHEWS: Jurisdictional.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can't even say it.

MR. BRELSFORD: I think there's an important basic information to share and that is, offshore fisheries, the trawl fisheries are managed by a Federal agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS. They don't come under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Board of Fish nor will these offshore fisheries, they won't come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board. Even under the Katie John decision, once that's fully implemented, the Federal Subsistence Board will manage inland fisheries and waters generally inside of Federal Conservation Units, not the offshore fisheries. So really the decision makers with authority over this is the National Marine Fisheries Service. And they're the ones that the Board of Fish would have to appeal to, the Federal Subsistence Boards would have to go to them. The Regional Councils would have to go to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever it takes, okay. Whatever it takes to get there.

MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I thought that's probably the point you were trying to make, that the letter ought to be delivered and followed up. And the right party, the ones with final authority on this is NMFS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. BRELSFORD: That's the Department of Commerce, the Secretary of Commerce that Vince mentioned the letter went to. I think that's really the appropriate avenue of follow-up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, that's what I'm trying to say, I guess, let's get it to whoever it needs to go and see what kind of response we get. Go ahead, Phil.

MR. TITUS: I got a question on jurisdiction. If we got jurisdiction in inland the fishes spawn upstream and then you got to come back and we got to make sure

they come back, because we can't let these trawlers just go up there and kill them off before they have a chance to come back, there will be no more fish.

MR. BRELSFORD: Right.

MR. TITUS: So we ought to have some kind of understanding instead of just letting our words evaporate in thin air.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Randy.

MR. MAYO: Since this Marine Fisheries Service is the appropriate channel to go through, you know, and the Department of Commerce - this is a big issue because it's a big economic issue. You know, they're making a lot of money out of there off of our resources. So that, you know, our concern has to go to the right people and with the reauthorization of the Magnuson Act, you know, we have that to stand on also, you know, this offshore fishing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, so I think we've beat that one to death and I think we've come to the conclusion that it needs to go to somebody other than the Chair of the Board of Fisheries and all the other folks that this thing went to. Let's send it to the appropriate group of people.

The other thing that I'd like to - I don't know whether it should be included in this 1996 annual report, but it has to do with the moose population in Unit 25(D), on the south side of the Yukon. It's something that I've been bringing up here since I got on this Board. And I don't know we've got a predator problem there. You know, I don't know whether it's bears, whether it's wolves, whatever, the issue is there. I'd like to get to the bottom of this thing and try to increase that moose population in that area. So I guess I'm asking you whether it would be appropriate to have this reflected in the '96 report?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that would be an issue that would be appropriate. I would just allow time for the refuge staff that's coming in tomorrow to brief you on that issue and others that may have knowledge to do that. So what we could do is just flag it for now and then at that time decide if - after their presentations decide if you want it still to be an annual report issue. You probably will, but it would be best to wait until they give their presentation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Craig.

MR. FLEENER: Yeah, I don't think the presentation is going to enhance the moose population and I still think it would still be an important issue to put in the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One more other thing I want to raise is the over population of beaver. Some people might think this is kind of silly, but these beavers, at least up in the Yukon Flats area have damned up some pretty good fishing areas that once upon a time had good white fish come out of them. And I raised this issue some time back, too. You know, that there must be some way to address this. I, in fact, proposed a regulation change that would allow us to shoot them year round. So, I guess I'm kind of unsure whatever became of that action.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that there was a proposal that was submitted to both the Board of Game and to the Federal Subsistence Board and I would need a few minutes to see what action was taken on that. But I believe they passed, but I need to consult with others to make sure that that action was taken. I know we drafted those, that was the Tok meeting, and they were submitted to both

Boards and I remember tracking both of them, but I'll take a few minutes to look.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Craig.

MR. FLEENER: I think the only regulation change that was made was a spring shoot for, I think it was a month. Bob, do you know what the season was on that?

MR. STEPHENSON: I think it was.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you use the mike, please.

MR. STEPHENSON: I'm Bob Stephenson with the Department of Fish & Game. The Board of Game, I believe passed a regulation that added shooting as a legal way to take beaver in Unit 25(D), maybe all of Unit 25, I think 25(D) from April 15th, whenever the trapping season used to close until the first of June, like about a month and a half period with a limit of one per day. And the reason they did that was we talked about the fishery problem and also that some people wanted to be able to shoot beaver in the summer just for meat, when they're out camping. And I guess they were - if we have a beaver problem with white fish, they would like to focus or know which places we should focus really intensive harvest, if we're going to do that. And they were afraid - and some of the people in Fort Yukon were a little concerned if we had an all summer long season for shooting, that the beavers that would be taken would be mostly in the rivers, which aren't the ones that are up in the smaller creeks effecting white fish, and so they didn't open it up as much as some people had in mind, but they did add that. And I think the Federal Board has a little longer season with also one a day, but a possession limit of two.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, for Unit 25, excluding 25(C), one beaver per day, one in possession, season of April 16th through October 31st.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your question there, I was very specific about the area where these beaver should be taken.

MR. STEPHENSON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I, in fact, also made a motion for what I call research monies basically to open up these dams. And the area that I was referring to was the Christen River and Martin Creek.

MR. STEPHENSON: Martin Creek, Um-hum. (Affirmative).

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are the ones that I specifically mentioned as part of this effort.

MR. STEPHENSON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: And God only knows what became of it.

MR. STEPHENSON: Well, the other route we can go on this is that we can issue permits for nuisance beaver, to take up to a certain number in a certain drainage. And if we could focus it on the places where it would really do some good for white fish we could make it go, have a narrow program rather than a unitwide wide open season because some people didn't like that either.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know who you're talking to, you know, when you say, some people. I don't recall having any kind of a public meeting in the Yukon Flats discussing this issue. You know, I get this information based on talking to people in the Yukon Flats.

MR. STEPHENSON: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's why I brought it to the attention of this Board, which I thought was the appropriate place to bring it. So I don't know where your information is coming from, but I'm sure it's not from the same group of people that I've been talking to.

MR. STEPHENSON: It's people in Fort Yukon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So I guess maybe what it needs to come down to maybe is maybe we need to have a public meeting to discuss this issue further.

MR. STEPHENSON: And we can also go with a little narrower program with the permit to take beavers for - we do it around Fairbanks because of flooding problems.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They're a nuisance, right?

MR. STEPHENSON: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, thank you. So what other things should we include in this report? That's the question, right.

MR. STARR: For the '96 report I got a letter from the Tanana Subsistence Wildlife Advisory Committee, Tanana Tribal Council. They want to prohibit air boats. Do you want to read that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. If the Board wouldn't mind, I'll go ahead and read this letter, it's from the Native Village of Tanana, Subsistence Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee. It's dated October 2, 1996, this was addressed to the Federal Subsistence Board. It says, Dear Board Members, this advisory committee advocates the prohibition of air boats within the Tanana Tribal Council's service area. The Tanana Tribal Council service area includes all Native allotments of Tribal members as required by trust responsibility and also areas that surround the Native allotments.

Methods and Means of Harvest. Prohibits the use of air boats for moose hunting or to transport moose or moose hunting equipment within the Tanana Tribal Council service area specifically in Subunits 20(F), 20(C) and 21(B).

In 20(F), the area includes all the lakes, creeks, sloughs, portages starting at Cos-Jacket, 45 miles up the Tanana River from Tanana, 12 miles below Tanana on the Yukon River.

In 20(C), the area includes all lakes, creeks, sloughs, et cetera from Cos-Jacket, 45 miles up Tanana River to the mouth of Corbusier Slough directly south of Tanana approximately one mile away.

In 21(B), the area includes all lakes, sloughs, creeks and portages starting at the mouth of the Corbusier Slough directly south of Tanana on the south bank of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers and on the north bank of the Yukon River 12 miles

below Tanana to the lower end of Mason Slough 47 miles down river from Tanana on the Yukon.

The reason this advisory committee wants to prohibit air boat hunting in the Tanana Tribal Council service area is to protect and conserve water fowl habitat from being over run and destroyed. The habitat of the geese and ducks within our service area is limited and with the further destruction of water fowl habitat would only enhance water fowl termination from the Tanana Tribal Council service area. Through the years the elders here in Tanana have noticed a steady decline in water fowl in and around Tanana and it may be for other reasons besides sloughs and lakes drying as it is the natural process to do so. But air boats have a devastating affect on water fowl habitat in existing lakes and sloughs. This committee would like to see air boat use in the whole area terminated before the water fowl is terminated from the area.

Another reason lies in the way the Tanana Tribal members of the Native Village of Tanana teach their youth to subsist off the land as they were taught by their parents. To do these kind of things takes time and consideration by all Tribal members and the means this Tribe has to implement this process of teaching the tribal youth is limited. The way things stand as they are, this tribe does not have what was once was land wise and as a tribe it has to hold on to what it has for this generation and future generations. To preserve and protect this vital resource it is necessary to keep it intact as it was left intact for this generation. To find other person's on traditional hunting grounds is a disturbing way of life that is slowly disappearing from this tribe as more and more encumbrances encroach upon tribal lands. Air boats are really destroying a way of life that began long before the very first encumbrance. These boats are too loud when approaching wild life and the wild life do not know which way to run so they just stand there. With all the gas these boats have to haul when going to and leaving an area there is hardly room for moose meat. Where does it go? How are tribal members going to compete against this kind of opposition with their low incomes? This moose meat is a vital source of food for the tribal members of the Native Village of Tanana that cannot be wasted by anyone.

This prohibition of air boats within the Tanana Tribal Council service area would ensure the continued survival of water fowl in TTC service area and a better chance for the tribal members to catch a moose before they run out of time and it becomes impossible to do so. It is very hard for a low income family to meet the prices for food here in Tanana at the local stores and other means to acquire food that is necessary for survival.

The wildlife that is mentioned above is harvested by Tanana, Manley, Rampart and other Tanana tribal members throughout the State that have moved because of better job opportunities than Tanana has to offer at the present time. These resources have been harvested in the way that was passed on from generation-to-generation, traditional and cultural, and the time, methods means allowed by State and Federal regulations.

All fish and wildlife caught by the Tanana tribal members is shared around the community within households, among relatives and to tribal members in need. It is taught by the elders to respect what you do and catch while hunting for these vital resources that sustain life for tribal members. It's signed the Native Village of Tanana Advisory Committee Members, John Starr, Jr. and Alfred Albert, Francis Robrest, Clarence Sam, Chris Grant.

So I guess he's raising an issue of air boats.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that letter was addressed to the Federal Subsistence Board, was it not?

MR. STARR: Yes.

MR. MATHEWS: I believe - I have not seen it, but that's beside the point. I believe that was submitted in the likelihood of being a proposal; is that the intent, John, of the Tanana Tribal Council?

MR. STARR: It will be in the '96 report.

MR. MATHEWS: It could be in the '96 report if the Council decides it. But the action that the tribal council is asking for would have to be looked at. My recommendations would be it should be submitted to the State Board of Game and to the Federal Subsistence Board, because without detailed mapping of the area described, my guess is that most of that is under State jurisdiction. And I don't remember when Interior proposals are up before the Board of Game, is it 1998?

MR. STARR: Well, they're going all over in that area. They're even going up through the (indiscernible) Federal Reserve.

MR. MATHEWS: Yes. If the description that was given covers the.....

MR. STARR: Yes, it does.

MR. MATHEWS: It should be turned into a - we need to make it - I need to find out clearly that the tribal council wants that as a proposal before the Board this cycle to take action, the Federal Subsistence Board, to make it clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Say that again, I was writing something here.

MR. MATHEWS: What I'm getting at is that, yes, it could be an annual report action. But I think the action that the tribal council wants needs to be done through - addressing of changes in seasons and harvest limits and et cetera, so it would be like a proposal. The letter was very well written, but I wanted to find out for sure that they were saying they wanted a proposal.

MR. STARR: I think that's right.

MR. MATHEWS: And I believe that's what they want.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I don't think they're taking about harvest changes and that type of thing. They're simply asking for the prohibition of air boats in those areas that they specifically stated.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MR. STARR: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Randy.

MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman, you know, we have the same concern up here. We don't want those air boats coming up this way either and they were prohibited down in Philip's area to Board action. And I thought somewhere that the village council here signed on to, you know, their proposals down there, Minto Flats and Nenana area. I'd like to see something come out of this Board here for the Eastern



Interior concerning air boats. You know, putting some restrictions on that kind of equipment, you know. You know, with those things you might as well allow people to come out here with helicopter, gun ships and whatnot. Because those things, they can go anywhere, you know.

So I think the appropriate way would be to put it in the proposal form coming from this Board with the resolution or something.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Is there anyone, Vince, here that can help develop a proposal?

MR. MATHEWS: Sure. We can do that - we can get a copy of that and then maybe meet with John and flush out this proposal and then get further clarifications by talking back with the tribal council.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, we're talking about developing the proposal at this meeting?

MR. MATHEWS: Yes, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. So you can get together with them. All right. That's fine.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He'll get together with you and you can.....

MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, Randy and John and probably Taylor and I will meet and help draft that during one of the breaks or some time appropriate and try to get it back before the Council - will get it back before the Council before you adjourn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I might suggest that it includes every - we might as well be radical and we might as well put it in for the whole region. Is that going a little to.....

MR. TITUS: That's pretty good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You're looking up.

MR. MATHEWS: You need to be aware of jurisdictions, that's the only reason why I'm looking to the ceiling.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. But we're developing a proposal coming from this Council to be presented to the appropriate folks.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's not a question of jurisdiction.

MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to argue?

MR. MATHEWS: No, no, no, I'm not arguing. I'm just - when we get to the phase of doing that, I will be asking you, do you want this also to go to the Board of Game is all I'm flagging at this moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know where it goes, but wherever appropriate.

MR. TITUS: Mr. Chairman, why don't we just take action that will cover up the whole thing. Like going to the State and the Federal Subsistence, then we wouldn't be having this back and forth discussions for nothing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't know. Vince needs some clarification, that's why I'm trying to - he's bringing up jurisdictional consistently and this is not a jurisdictional issue, I don't think. It's an issue that's coming.....

MR. TITUS: Let's just submit the proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, go ahead.

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Terry Haynes. The Board of Game will not be taking up proposals for the Interior Region which would include this area either until next year or the year after. So unless there was an emergency type situation taking place there that would cause the Board to maybe take this kind of proposal out of cycle, it might not be dealt with for another year or two. So what I might recommend is you could submit it to the Board of Game, but it won't be acted on right away. Another alternative would be for the Advisory Committee, in your case for the TRM Advisory Committee to perhaps submit your specific proposal, you know, when your next proposal development meeting takes place.

MR. STARR: When is the State, is there a meeting down in Anchorage pretty soon?

MR. HAYNES: The next Board of Game meeting is in Sitka, I believe. They're not taking up they've changed their process, they're not going to take up proposals from all areas of the State every year and the Interior region is not going to be generally dealt with until next year or the year after, I'd have to check on that to be sure.

MR. STARR: Well, you can take a copy of that I don't care when it is just as long as action is taken on that.

MR. HAYNES: I'd be happy to take a copy of that proposal back, but it's something you'll want to submit formally at some point in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kind of shocked me with your response there. It sounds to me like there's a resource problem here. But the way I understand that letter it's talking about air boats endangering water fowl habitat. And because of that I don't know if it's wise to wait two years to or whatever time frame you just gave to submit a proposal.

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I might suggest then that the Council, if you feel you have an emergency situation there, the Council may want to submit a letter in support of the resolution coming from Tanana where you may have some other action that you take that would be appropriate to submit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. And I think we will do that. I think we will, Vince, John and Randy you can get together and draft up something here for our consideration. Okay. Anything else? So as far as this annual report is concerned, I'm going to reflect that discussion we had on customary and traditional use areas, the trawler issue, the moose population in 25(D) West and then this issue with the beaver.

MR. MATHEWS: If that's the wishes of the Council, sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I mean that's what we discussed here. So I assume that's going to be reflected in the report, that's the question you were asking. Okay. Is there anything else? Do you need a motion to that effect or is that direction clear?

MR. MATHEWS: I don't think we need a motion, I think it's clear on the record that the Council members had a chance to voice any additions or clarifications on those. So I think it's clear on the record that those are the issues you would like in the annual report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, go ahead.

MR. FLEENER: Is this the last opportunity that a Council member will have to make an addition?

MR. MATHEWS: No, it would not be. Throughout the meeting we could do it and obviously the Council doesn't really adopt the annual report until the next winter meeting. So there could be other issues that could come up and then at the winter meeting we would quickly cover them and hopefully incorporate them to meet this deadline. That's the only thing, we have tried over the years with this Council to make sure that the annual report was done in the wide open with all Council members were involved so everyone understood what was in there. And, sure, we have up until then and even after that if need be through phone calling and well, mainly through phone calling for clarification, not for action.

MR. FLEENER: Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, John.

MR. STARR: This is John, what's going to be done about the wolf control on the Federal land. That issue's been brought up already.

MR. MATHEWS: What patrol?

MR. STARR: The wolf control on Federal lands?

MR. MATHEWS: Oh, wolf control. Why don't we save that topic for tomorrow when it will be a discussion point on a slide presentation of others. I don't want to put John off, but I think it would be best to have the key players here to discuss wolf control or intents of management.

MR. STARR: Okay. I'll bring that up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, anything else for the annual report? Okay, if not, we already did the appointment to the annual report subcommittee, didn't we?

MR. MATHEWS: You already did that, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, can you explain to me what this public comment period is here?

MR. MATHEWS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman, what that is in there, at different meetings when we've been in communities where people have expressed concerns to us that they didn't know when they could come to testify, so I've just

incorporated that into the agenda so that people know that if they want to target a time during the day to come to testify that they know that the Council at 6:00 o'clock would be taking public comment and at 8:30 in the morning. You take public comment anytime, but not at this Council, but at other Councils, people were quite upset that they didn't know when they could come to testify and could not take off the whole day to be there to testify. Your style has been that if someone we had Mr. Joseph speak at different times and stuff, it just allows people to target a time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, just for the audience, we take comments as we go along, not necessarily as it's on this agenda here. So with that, we'll bypass that unless there's some comments? Okay, I guess not. With that I guess we get into the next issue and that's the Katie John implementation of Federal Subsistence Fisheries Management, the background and identify issues and receive Regional Council of public comments.

MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, that's perhaps a 30 minute item. Was it your hope to go tonight or take that up first thing in the morning as it's scheduled now?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I leave that up to the Board here, do you want to get into this or hold off until tomorrow? Well, we said we were going to cut it off around 9:00, are you prepared to do this thing?

MR. BRELSFORD: I am. I kind of rather hit you fresh in the morning, but if you want to proceed, we'll go along. There's some discussion items on it, a set of questions that we'd like to solicit your input on so that could be a bit lengthy and it might be a little cleaner to do it all as a group first thing in the morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Vince.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe a wiser move would be just to advance in the agenda and come back to this tomorrow. I know that several members have told me that the fisheries issues is quite important and we may have to do quite a bit of development in that are on interest. So maybe we would just want to go up to agency reports and cover one or two of those that are present here and that would get those out of the way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vince, I was just told that we're going to have a blackout here pretty soon, so maybe we should just go ahead and recess this until tomorrow. We'll just go ahead and recess until 8:30 tomorrow. Thank you.

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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#### C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA            )  
)ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA                        )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 61 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Eastern Interior Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting

taken electronically by me on the 7th day of October 1996 beginning at the hour of 3:00 o'clock p.m. at Stevens Village School, Stevens Village, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of October 1996.

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Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 11/5/98